

What is claimed is:

1. A connector for electrically interconnecting conductors of a flat flexible circuit to conductors of a complementary mating connecting device, comprising:
 - a relatively rigid body member on which the flat flexible circuit is positioned with the conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member for engaging the conductors of the complementary mating connecting device;
 - a relatively yieldable backing structure attached to the body member beneath the flat flexible circuit; and
 - a relatively rigid cover member securable to the body member over the flat flexible circuit, the cover member including a pressure surface engageable with the flat flexible circuit to clamp the circuit into engagement with the yieldable backing structure to provide strain relief for the circuit.
2. The connector of claim 1 wherein said yieldable backing structure comprises an elongated resilient strip extending transversely of the flat flexible circuit.
3. The connector of claim 2 wherein said elongated resilient strip is of a generally uniform thickness along the length thereof.
4. The connector of claim 3 wherein said elongated resilient strip extends substantially the entire width of the flat flexible circuit.
5. The connector of claim 1 wherein said yieldable backing structure is of elastomeric material.
6. The connector of claim 1 wherein said yieldable backing structure is a molded-in-place component.

2 7. The connector of claim 1 wherein said yieldable backing structure is
separate from the body member and fixed thereto.

2 8. The connector of claim 1 wherein said yieldable backing structure is
integral with the body member.

2 9. The connector of claim 1 wherein said relatively yieldable backing
structure comprises a first backing structure, and including a second relatively
yieldable backing structure attached to the body member beneath the flat flexible
4 circuit, the second backing structure being spaced from the first backing structure and
located for biasing the conductors of the flat flexible circuit against the conductors of
6 the complementary mating connecting device.

2 10. The connector of claim 9 wherein said second yieldable backing
structure comprises an elongated resilient strip extending transversely of the flat
flexible circuit.

2 11. The connector of claim 10 wherein said elongated resilient strip is of a
generally uniform thickness along the length thereof and extends substantially the
entire width of the flat flexible circuit.

2 12. The connector of claim 1, including complementary interengaging
latch means between the body member and the cover member to hold the cover
member on the body member biasing the flat flexible circuit into engagement with the
4 yieldable backing structure.

13. A connector for electrically interconnecting conductors of a flat flexible circuit to conductors of a complementary mating connecting device, comprising:

a relatively rigid body member on which the flat flexible circuit is positioned with the conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member for engaging the conductors of the complementary mating connecting device;

a first relatively yieldable backing structure of elastomeric material attached to the body member beneath the flat flexible circuit, the first yieldable backing structure comprising an elongated strip of generally uniform thickness along the length thereof and extending transversely of the flat flexible circuit substantially the entire width of the circuit;

a relatively rigid cover member securable to the body member over the flat flexible circuit, the cover member including a pressure surface engageable with the flat flexible circuit to clamp the circuit into engagement with the first yieldable backing structure to provide strain relief for the circuit; and

a second relatively yieldable backing structure of elastomeric material attached to the body member beneath the flat flexible circuit, the second backing structure being spaced from the first backing structure and located for biasing the conductors of the flat flexible circuit against the conductors of the complementary mating connecting device.

14. The connector of claim 13 wherein said second yieldable backing structure is of a generally uniform thickness along the length thereof and extends substantially the entire width of the flat flexible circuit.

15. The connector of claim 13 wherein both said first and second yieldable backing structures are molded-in-place components.

16. The connector of claim 13 wherein both said first and second yieldable
2 backing structures are separate from the body member and fixed thereto.

17. The connector of claim 13 wherein both said first and second yieldable
4 backing structures are integral with the body member.

18. The connector of claim 13, including complementary interengaging
2 latch means between the body member and the cover member to hold the cover
member on the body member biasing the flat flexible circuit into engagement with the
4 first yieldable backing structure.

19. The connector of claim 13, including complementary interengaging
2 securing means between the body member and the flat flexible circuit on a side of the
second relatively yieldable backing structure opposite a side of the second yieldable
4 backing structure from which the first yieldable backing structure is spaced.

20. The connector of claim 19 wherein said securing means comprises at
2 least one post on the body member for insertion into a hole in the flat flexible circuit.

21. A connector for terminating a flat flexible circuit, comprising:
2 a relatively rigid body member on which the flat flexible circuit is
positioned;
4 a relatively yieldable backing structure attached to the body member
beneath the flat flexible circuit; and
6 a relatively rigid cover member securable to the body member over the
flat flexible circuit, the cover member including a pressure surface engageable with
8 the flat flexible circuit to clamp the circuit into engagement with the yieldable backing
structure to provide strain relief for the circuit.

22. The connector of claim 21 wherein said yieldable backing structure
comprises an elongated resilient strip extending transversely of the flat flexible
circuit.

23. The connector of claim 22 wherein said elongated resilient strip is of a
generally uniform thickness along the length thereof.

24. The connector of claim 23 wherein said elongated resilient strip
extends substantially the entire width of the flat flexible circuit.

25. The connector of claim 21 wherein said yieldable backing structure is
of elastomeric material.

26. The connector of claim 21 wherein said yieldable backing structure is a
molded-in-place component.

27. The connector of claim 21 wherein said yieldable backing structure is
separate from the body member and fixed thereto.

28. The connector of claim 21 wherein said yieldable backing structure is
integral with the body member.

29. The connector of claim 21, including complementary interengaging
latch means between the body member and the cover member to hold the cover
member on the body member biasing the flat flexible circuit into engagement with the
yieldable backing structure.